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Cloud of volcanic ash rises from the erupting Eyjafjallajökull volcano, in Iceland, on 16th April

AIR TRAVEL HALTED BY VOLCANIC ASH

For six days an erupting volcano in Iceland has caused problems for tens of thousands of air passengers. A cloud of volcanic ash from the eruption forced airports in northern Europe to close, and many airlines from around the world to cancel flights.

The volcano, called Eyjafjallajökull (pronounced aya-vel-lo-kulth), first began erupting on 20th March. This eruption occurred along a fissure, or vent, on the side of the volcano. It ended on 12th April. Two days later a new eruption began in a different place. This time it was beneath 200 metres (656 feet) of ice.

Iceland has a lot of volcanic activity. It is on what's called a mid-ocean ridge and is one of the few places in the world where this type of ridge rises above the sea's surface. This ridge marks the place where two of the Earth's tectonic plates are moving apart.

Some of Iceland's many volcanoes are under thick layers of ice. These are known as subglacial volcanoes. When they erupt, heat from the magma, or molten rock, quickly melts huge areas of ice. This can cause dangerous flooding. Around 800 people living in the area near the Eyjafjallajökull volcano had to be evacuated.

As the ice melts above erupting subglacial volcanoes water flows onto the hot magma. This causes explosions and clouds of steam. When water and hot molten rock mix the rock can suddenly harden and shatter into tiny pieces of silica – a glass-like invisible dust. The smallest pieces, called volcanic ash, can then be carried high into the atmosphere by the force of the eruption and rising steam. This is what happened at the beginning of the Eyjafjallajökull eruption.

The winds above Iceland at this time of year would normally blow any clouds

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of volcanic ash north eastwards. Yet for several days the winds blew the invisible ash towards northern European countries.

If high levels of volcanic ash get into aeroplane engines it can cause them to shut down. Soon after the volcano began erupting, military aircraft from Finland reported that volcanic ash in the atmosphere was affecting the planes' engines.

On 15th April northern European authorities ordered airports to shut down. Many people thought the airport closures would last only for a short time. But the volcanic eruption continued and the winds kept blowing the ash cloud towards northern Europe.

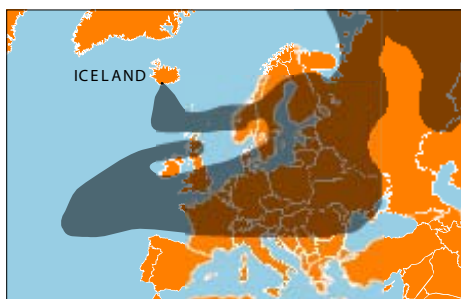
Thousands of people were unable to travel as more and more flights in Europe were cancelled. The closed airports caused more problems further away. Planes from places such as North America, India, Asia and Australia were not able to fly to northern European airports. Hotels in many larger cities such as Hong Kong and Singapore became full with people waiting to travel back to their home countries.

Many travellers were forced to sleep in airports. Others stranded within Europe decided to try to get home by taking trains, buses, taxis, hired cars and ferries.

Many airlines have lost large amounts of money. Experts estimate that all the flight delays have cost the airline companies at least £1 billion (US\$1.5 billion). It's thought that over the six-day period around 95,000 flights were cancelled.

Under European Union (EU) law airline companies in Europe have to pay for people's hotels and meals if the passengers are delayed. But some companies say these laws were only meant to cover short delays. They

say the high cost of looking after passengers for such a long period could force airlines to close down.



Position of volcanic ash cloud on 17th April

Not everyone was unhappy about the lack of aircraft in the skies. Those living near busy airports say they found the sudden silence strange but enjoyable.

Four days after the airport shutdown began larger European airlines began to question the authorities' decision to continue to stop all flights. Some said they thought the ash cloud was no longer thick enough to affect aircraft engines.

Several airline companies arranged for pilots to fly empty passenger planes through the sky where the ash cloud was believed to be. When these flights returned experts inspected the planes' engines, which were found to be unaffected. Soon after these results were known the authorities in different European countries announced that all airports could reopen. Many people have now accused the authorities of being too cautious and said the airports should have been allowed to open sooner.

Some people warn that the ash cloud could return. The volcano in Iceland is still erupting. Experts are unsure how long it will last. They say if the ash rises as high as ten kilometres (32,000 feet) into the atmosphere the problems may start again. Yet if it stays below three kilometres (9,800 feet) planes should be able to continue to fly. ■

ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZES

The six winners of this year's Goldman Environmental Prize were given their awards on 19th April.

The Goldman Prize is the world's largest environmental award. Each of its winners receives US\$150,000 (£100,000). The prizes are awarded to one person in each of six inhabited geographical areas of the world. These are: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, South and Central America, and Islands and Island Nations.

The awards are given to individuals who have taken a personal risk in protecting the environment where they live. The organisation that awards the prizes describes these people as 'environmental heroes'.

The Prizes have been awarded every year since 1990. They were set up by Richard Goldman and his wife Rhoda. Mr Goldman is an American [philanthropist](#) who lives in California, in the USA.



The Goldman Prize winners

Thuli Brilliance Makama from Swaziland won the African prize. She has persuaded the government in Swaziland to change the law on setting up game parks. People pay money to travel to game parks to hunt and shoot wild animals. Now the government of Swaziland will not be allowed to set up a game park unless it has permission from the people who live in the area.

NewsCAST

CYCLING FOR YOUR SUPPER — A hotel in Denmark is offering free meals – to people who generate electricity by cycling. Hotel guests are invited to ride special exercise bicycles. These bicycles are connected to equipment that makes electricity, which is then used by the hotel. Hotel managers say guests often want to do some exercise when they stay. Those who produce ten watt-hours of electricity are given a [voucher](#) that can be used for a free meal in the hotel's restaurant. The hotel owners say a person who has an average level of fitness will need to cycle for about 15 minutes to get a free meal.

The Asian prize was won by Tuy Sereivathana from Cambodia. He has worked to protect Asian elephants. Farmers were killing these animals because they were damaging crops. He showed farmers ways to protect their farms from elephants without killing them, such as putting up special fences and scaring the elephants away with horns and fireworks.

Malgorzata Gorska won the European prize. She managed to stop a new road from being built across the Rospuda Valley in Poland. This valley is home to many rare animals and plants. Supporters say it is one of a few remaining unspoilt wildernesses in Europe.

The prize for North America was awarded to Lynn Henning from the USA. She got local officials to enforce new rules on industrial farms. These types of farms hold many pigs, chickens or cattle within small areas. The waste from the animals has been polluting streams and rivers.

Randall Arauz from Costa Rica won the Central and South America award for his work to protect sharks. Fishing companies in Costa Rican waters often catch sharks just to cut off and sell their fins. The sharks are then thrown back into the ocean. This is illegal, and Mr Arauz works to make sure the government keeps enforcing the law.

The Islands and Island Nations prize was awarded to Humberto Rios Labrada from Cuba. He has encouraged some Cuban farmers to use fewer chemical fertilizers and [pesticides](#). Instead they are now using more natural ways of increasing the amount of crops they grow.

Each prizewinner received his or her award during a special ceremony held in San Francisco, in the USA. ■

ELECTIONS IN SUDAN

The first proper elections for over 20 years took place in Sudan between 11th and 15th April. The elections were for both the president of the country and Sudan's 450-member National Assembly, or parliament.

Sudan is the largest country in Africa with a population of 42 million. The country produces large amounts of oil, nearly all of which is sold to China. Yet most Sudanese people are very poor. Many of them are unable to read or write.

Currently Sudan is run by Omar al-Bashir, the country's president, together with his political party, the National Congress Party (NCP). President al-Bashir is a former army officer. He and a group of other military leaders took control of Sudan in 1989. At first Mr al-Bashir

banned all political parties. Later he was elected president but was the only candidate allowed to stand in the election.

The new elections took place as part of an agreement that ended a civil war in the country that lasted for over 20 years. The war was between government forces and South Sudan. It ended in 2005. Most people living in the north of the country are Arab Muslims. Those living in South Sudan are black Africans who mostly follow traditional African beliefs or Christianity.

It was part of the peace agreement that elections would be held in the whole of Sudan. Before this could happen a [census](#) of Sudan's population, to draw up accurate voting lists, had to be done. This was not completed until 2008.



The peace agreement also states that after the election takes place a referendum, or vote in which all adults can take part, will be held in South Sudan. This will decide whether people living in South Sudan want it to become a separate independent country. Now the elections are over the referendum

in South Sudan is due to take place next year. Most people expect South Sudan will vote for independence and will therefore become Africa's newest country.

In Darfur, another region of Sudan, a war has been going on since 2003. This is between groups in Darfur opposed to President al-Bashir and his government's forces. Some people estimate as many as 300,000 people have died during the fighting in Darfur. Last year the International Criminal Court said President al-Bashir should be arrested and put on trial. It accuses him of being responsible for many war crimes committed against civilians in Darfur.

The elections were controversial. Many said the voting papers were too complicated. Voting was supposed to finish on 13th April but had to be extended for two days. President al-Bashir is expected to win easily. This is because nearly all the opposition candidates decided not to stand against him. They claimed the elections would not be free or fair. Many accused him and the NCP of only allowing its supporters to vote.

Some international organisations travelled to Sudan to check on the elections. This included one group from the European Union (EU) and one led by Jimmy Carter, a former president of the USA. They too reported the election was neither free nor fair. However, they said the elections were a step towards fairer votes being held in Sudan in the future and that the referendum in South Sudan could now go ahead. ■

EARTHQUAKE IN QINGHAI

On 14th April an earthquake struck the southern part of the Chinese province of Qinghai. Chinese

officials measured the earthquake as 7.1 on the Richter scale.

Qinghai is near to the Chinese Autonomous Region of Tibet. It is part of what is known as the Tibetan Plateau. This plateau is the world's largest, and is sometimes called 'the roof of the world'. Much of the plateau is over 4,000 metres (13,000 feet) high.



There are few large cities or towns in Qinghai. The place worst affected was Jiegu, a town of 100,000 people. The earthquake's epicentre was around 32 kilometres (20 miles) from the town.

The Tibetan Plateau has been formed by two tectonic plates – the Indian and the Eurasian plates – pushing against one another. This means earthquakes and smaller earth tremors in this part of China are frequent. In 2008 an earthquake in Sichuan province, 640 kilometres (400 miles) away, killed 90,000 people.

Most buildings in Jiegu, many of which were built from wood and clay, were destroyed or badly damaged. The earthquake struck at around eight o'clock in the morning. Many people lost their homes or were trapped under fallen buildings. A school collapsed just as students were about to go to their classes. Many were killed.

The Chinese government sent rescue workers and soldiers to the area. However, it takes over 12 hours

to drive to Jiegu from the nearest large airport. This meant it took rescue workers a long time to reach the places that were badly affected. Large amounts of warm clothing and tents have been sent to Jiegu and the surrounding villages, for use by those who lost their homes.

In the days that followed the earthquake Wen Jia-bao, the Chinese premier, and Hu Jin-tao, the country's president, visited Jiegu. Premier Wen urged the rescuers to keep working until everyone trapped under the fallen buildings had been found.

Many of the people who live in the area where the earthquake struck are Tibetans. Most therefore follow the Buddhist religion. There are several monasteries in Jiegu and the surrounding villages. Some were damaged by the earth tremors. Buddhist monks and bhikkhunis, or Buddhist nuns, helped to arrange the rescue of many of the trapped people.

Chinese government officials announced that about 2,000 people were killed and around 12,000 injured. Buddhist monks said the number of people killed was much greater than this. They think it could be as high as 10,000. Between 60 and 70 monks are believed to be among the dead.

The bodies of many of those killed were taken to the monasteries. Traditionally in this part of the world people are given what are called sky burials. Bodies are left on mountaintops for vultures to come and eat. Yet this was not possible because there were too many bodies. Instead they were put in piles and burned, or cremated.

The Chinese government declared that those killed in the earthquake would be remembered on 21st April, which was made an official day of mourning. ■

NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR POWER

by Dr Carol Ballard

The USA, Russia, France, China, the UK, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel are the only countries known to have developed nuclear weapons, or warheads.

To stop more nations developing nuclear warheads most countries in the world have signed an agreement called the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Those that sign the NPT agree not to develop nuclear weapons. Yet they are allowed to use nuclear technology to generate electricity. At the beginning of April the USA and Russia agreed to reduce the number of their nuclear weapons.

Recently, some countries, led by the USA, have accused Iran of breaking the NPT by trying to develop nuclear weapons. Iran denies this. It insists its nuclear experiments are designed to generate electricity from nuclear power and not to make nuclear warheads.

Nuclear weapons and nuclear power stations both use the elements uranium (U) and plutonium (Pu). Both are radioactive heavy metals. This means they are unstable – their atoms 'decay', releasing particles and emitting radiation. Uranium is found in certain rocks. Most of the world's uranium is mined in Australia. Yet it is also found in certain parts of Asia – including Russia – Africa and North and South America.

Miners dig up large quantities of rock that contains some uranium. These rocks are then crushed and treated with acid. This separates the uranium from the rock. Only very tiny amounts of plutonium exist naturally. The plutonium used in nuclear reactions is man-made.

The atoms of both uranium and plutonium exist in several forms, called isotopes. An atom is made up of electrons and a nucleus, which contains neutrons and protons. The atoms of an element's different isotopes have different numbers of neutrons.

The two main uranium isotopes are U-235 and U-238. The names show how many particles the isotope has in its nucleus. Both isotopes have 92 protons. But U-235 has 143 neutrons, and U-238 has 146 neutrons.

There are fifteen isotopes of plutonium, (Pu-232 to Pu-246) but only Pu-239 is suitable for use in nuclear weapons.

Of all the uranium dug up, less than 1% is the U-235 isotope. Most nuclear power stations or reactors need more concentrated U-235 than this. So a process called enrichment – spinning the uranium in a series of special machines called centrifuges – is used to increase the concentration of U-235.

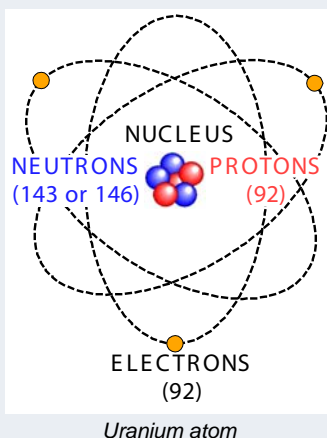
U-235 is important in creating power because its atoms can be split. This happens when the nucleus of a U-235 atom captures a neutron from another atom. This releases a lot of energy and some neutrons. Other U-235 atoms can then capture these neutrons. Then the atoms that have captured the neutrons also split. This chain reaction releases more and more energy and neutrons.

This means a lot of energy can be released from a small amount of uranium. This is what happens inside a nuclear power station. The energy, or heat, is used to make steam. The steam turns turbines that produce electricity.

The atoms of U-238 do not split in the same way as those of U-235. Instead, they capture some of the neutrons released when atoms of U-235 split. When this happens, the U-238 atoms are changed into plutonium atoms: U-238 becomes Pu-239. Some Pu-239 atoms behave like U-235 atoms and split, releasing even more energy. Others just capture another neutron and become Pu-240 atoms.

Uranium and plutonium can both be used to make nuclear warheads. However, uranium for nuclear power has to contain between 3% and 4% of U-235 whereas that for nuclear weapons needs more than 90% of U-235. So uranium for nuclear weapons has to be enriched many times more than uranium for nuclear power stations. This is what some countries suspect Iran is doing and why they accuse it of developing nuclear weapons. The plutonium used in nuclear weapons must contain more than 90% of Pu-239. It is made from uranium in special reactors.

The nuclear weapons the USA and Russia have agreed to dismantle contain highly-enriched uranium and plutonium. These can be diluted with other uranium and plutonium isotopes. Once this is done they can be used in nuclear power stations to make electricity.



MUMMY'S TOE RETURNED

The 42-year-old mystery of an Egyptian mummy's missing toe has been solved.

Recently, Egyptologists have carried out new DNA tests on several Egyptian mummies to try to identify them.



Missing toe

The mummy with the missing toe is now known to be the body of an important pharaoh called Akhenaten. He ruled ancient Egypt between 1353 and 1336 BC.

During Akhenaten's reign he stopped Egyptians from worshipping many different gods and said they must only worship one. This is called monotheism. Akhenaten's god was Aten, the Sun. Although most experts disagree, some think today's monotheist religions such as Judaism and Christianity have links with the monotheism started by Akhenaten.

Akhenaten also built a new capital city called Amarna. Soon after his death everyone abandoned the new city. It is not known why but within a few years Egyptians began to worship the same gods as they had before Akhenaten's time. Statues and carvings of the monotheist pharaoh were deliberately destroyed, as if later ancient Egyptian leaders wanted to delete him from history.

The DNA tests also show Akhenaten was the father of Tutankhamun, ancient Egypt's most famous

pharaoh. His tomb was discovered in 1922. It contained his sarcophagus, or stone coffin. When this was opened a gold mask was found inside. This mask has now become a symbol of ancient Egypt.

The big toe from the left foot of Akhenaten's mummy was taken away in 1968. It was given by a person working at an Egyptian museum to a professor of anatomy at Liverpool University, in the UK. At the time the professor was one of the world's experts on mummies. It was given to him so he could try to discover from blood samples who the mummy was and to which other mummies he or she was related.

It is now illegal to take ancient artefacts out of Egypt. Today the country has plenty of its own scientific equipment to carry out tests on artefacts such as mummies.



Statue of Akhenaten

The professor died many years ago. When later Egyptian experts wondered where the toe was there were no records saying what had happened to it.

Dr Robert Connolly has now retired but he used to work at the university laboratory. He knew about the toe and says he had been thinking about how to give it back for some time. Recently, Egypt has been insisting that all ancient artefacts taken out of the country over the last 200 years should be returned.

Dr Connolly decided to contact Dr Frank Ruhli, an expert on mummies

who lives in Switzerland. Dr Ruhli agreed to return the toe to Egypt. It will now be put on display in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. ■

'OXYGEN-FREE' LIFE

Scientists from Italy have found three new species of creatures able to live without oxygen. What is surprising about their discovery is the small shrimp-like creatures have bodies composed of many cells. Until now, scientists thought only single-celled organisms such as bacteria could survive without oxygen.

The creatures were discovered living in sediment deep under the Mediterranean Sea. The sediment in which they live is in L'Atalante basin, a deep depression at the bottom of the sea about 190 kilometres (118 miles) from the island of Crete. The bottom of the basin is 3.5 kilometres (2.2 miles) below the surface

NewsCAST

SNAKE ATTACK — A person was arrested in a hotel in the USA after he was accused of attacking another guest with an unusual weapon. The guest said he had complained that music playing in a nearby room was too loud. The man and the person playing the loud music had an argument. Later the man who had complained about the noise said the person he had argued with came up behind him and tapped him on the shoulder. When he turned around, the other man pushed a large snake into his face. The man said he was very upset and called the police because he is scared of snakes.

of the sea. The water in this part of the depression, unlike most areas of the world's seas or oceans, is extremely salty, and anoxic. 'Anoxic' means the seawater contains no dissolved oxygen.



One of the loriciferans

The bodies of small many-celled creatures have previously been found in an anoxic part of the Black Sea. But at the time scientists thought the dead creatures must simply have sunk down to the anoxic area from areas that did have oxygen.

The creatures found alive at the bottom of L'Atalante basin were all about one millimetre (0.04 inches) long. When the three shrimp-like creatures – called loriciferans – were brought up to the surface they all died. However, the scientists discovered that two of them contained eggs.

The scientists set up a tank on their ship, in which they recreated the sediment and the anoxic water. When the eggs were put into the tank, they hatched. This proved the loriciferans are able to live and reproduce without having any oxygen to breathe.

At the moment the scientists cannot explain how the animals survive. Until now, the scientists say, only bacteria were thought to be able to live in these conditions. The scientists think the creatures must have somehow adapted or evolved over a long period, from living in water containing some dissolved oxygen to places in which there is none.

The scientists' discovery especially interests people who search for and study other planets in the Universe. This is because it might show that life more complex than single-celled organisms could exist on planets that have no oxygen. ■

'REVOLUTION' ENDS IN KYRGYZSTAN

On 15th April the president of Kyrgyzstan (pronounced kur-gi-stahn) resigned. President Kurmanbek Bakiyev then left the country. He is currently in Belarus.

One week before he resigned President Bakiyev had been forced to leave Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, for his home city of Osh. For over one month there had been many street protests in Bishkek and other towns and cities in the country.

The protestors said the president and his government were corrupt, or dishonest. They accused him of nepotism – making sure family members and close friends were given important jobs. Many protestors also claimed last year's presidential election was unfair. Mr Bakiyev won. Yet opponents accused him of cheating.

Another reason for the protests was that President Bakiyev's government has recently more than doubled the cost of electricity and oil and gas, used for heating. And the president has been forcing newspapers and radio stations that do not support him to close down.

On 7th April thousands of demonstrators attacked several government buildings in different cities. One in Bishkek was set on fire. Riot police were ordered to fire shots at the protestors. Reports say at least 40 demonstrators were killed and around 500 wounded.

Soon after President Bakiyev left Bishkek, politicians who oppose him said they had taken charge of the country. They said they had formed a temporary, or interim, government. Roza Otunbayeva is its leader. She was once the country's foreign minister and worked with Mr Bakiyev. Yet soon after he became president she disagreed with how he was running the country.

Many people describe what happened in Kyrgyzstan as a revolution. This is a word often used to describe huge and dramatic changes in the way in which a country is run. Something similar happened in 2005. Then the president at that time was accused of running the country as a dictator. He and his family were forced to leave. They now live in Russia. Mr Bakiyev became president after this revolution.



Former president Kurmanbek Bakiyev

Other countries such as China, Russia, and the USA are worried about what has happened in Kyrgyzstan. This is because China shares a border with Kyrgyzstan and both Russia and the USA have military bases there. Both bases are near Bishkek.

The American military airbase is important for the USA. It is used as a base for troops and military equipment going to Afghanistan, where the USA is involved in a war against the Taliban. Every month the USA moves over 30,000 troops in and out

of Afghanistan via its base in Kyrgyzstan. The USA pays the government of Kyrgyzstan US\$60 million (£40 million) each year to be able to use the military base.

On 21st April Mr Bakiyev made an announcement from Belarus, saying he is still president. But Ms Otunbayevna insists he has resigned. She announced that a new presidential election will be held in October. ■

NEW HUMAN ANCESTOR?

Nearly two years ago the son of a paleoanthropologist – a scientist who studies ancient humans – made an amazing discovery. News of what the nine-year-old boy found was made public in a science magazine on 9th April. Some scientists believe his discovery could be a link between the first ancient humans and apes.

The young boy had joined his father on a fossil-hunting trip to Malapa, a well-known cave area near Johannesburg, in South Africa. The Malapa caves are in a region nicknamed the ‘Cradle of Humankind’. This is because several fossils of ancient human ancestors have been found in the area. Some are believed to be around 2.5 million years old.

The boy found a fossilised bone. At first his father thought it was from a modern-day animal. Then he realised it looked like a human collarbone. Close by he saw a jawbone of what he knew to be a hominid. This is the name given to what scientists call the ‘great apes’. These include living and extinct gorillas, orang-utans, some types of monkeys, and humans.

It took many months to carefully dig up the bones in the area. They were discovered to have belonged

to a boy aged eight or nine and to an adult female aged between 20 and 30. It’s thought the adult was the boy’s mother. Both sets of bones are believed to be between 1.78 and 1.95 million years old.



Skull of *Australopithecus sediba*

Although the bones were found near the surface of the ground scientists think both hominids died in a deep cave, perhaps when they were looking for water. Their skeletons were washed into an underground pool where they were covered in mud and preserved. Thousands of years ago the roof of the cave collapsed. So what was an underground pool is now near the surface of the ground.

Close to the hominid bones the scientists also found the fossilised bones of 25 different animals. These included wild cats and dogs, mice, rabbits, and a horse. These too must have been swept into the underground pool. Two other sets of hominid bones were also found.

Both mother and son would have been around 1.25 metres (4.1 feet) tall. They have a mix of both human and ape-like features. For example, they had noses that stuck out and long straight legs and arms. Yet their feet could also be used for climbing and grabbing hold of things. The scientists think they walked on two legs and would also probably have been able to run. Their brains were about a third of the size of the brains of modern humans. The team that

dug up the bones has named the new type of hominid *Australopithecus sediba*. Sediba is a local African word for a spring or well. *Australopithecus* means ‘southern ape’.

Not all paleoanthropologists agree that *Australopithecus sediba* is a new type of ancient human ancestor. They say the bones probably belong to individuals from species that have already been identified. ■

BRIC SUMMIT

The leaders of the ‘BRIC’ countries held a summit, or meeting, in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, on 15th and 16th April.

BRIC is an [acronym](#) for Brazil, Russia, India and China. These four countries were first nicknamed ‘BRIC’ by an economist from America. He grouped them together as they have some of the fastest-growing economies in the world. The four BRIC countries also have roughly 40% of the world’s population and 25% of its total land area.

Some people think that within the next 40 years the economies of the BRIC countries will overtake the six biggest economies in the world today. This includes the USA and Japan – currently the world’s two largest economies.



BRIC leaders at the summit in Brazil

Others argue Russia is unlikely to do this. They claim it is the odd one out of the four BRIC countries. This is because it does not make, or

NewsCAST

POTATO THIEVES — A farm on the island of Jersey, in the UK, has had a problem with thieves. The farm grows several types of potatoes, including what some experts consider to be the world's best-tasting. The farm owners say in the past people have stolen small amounts of potatoes – enough to cook at home. Yet this year thieves have been deliberately stealing many of the best-tasting and most expensive kinds. So far the owners say potatoes worth as much as £5,000 (US\$7,695) have been taken. Now the farm has employed six security guards to try to stop the potato thieves.

manufacture, many items that are sold to other countries as the other three do. Instead Russia relies on selling natural resources such as oil, gas and minerals mined from underground.

Since the name BRIC was first used nearly ten years ago the four countries have talked about ways of making trade among them easier. They also plan to try to work together in politics. By doing this the BRIC countries believe they may be able to [influence](#) some decisions made by larger countries such as the USA.

The BRIC countries decided to hold their first official summit last year, in Yekaterinburg, in Russia. The meeting in Brasilia was BRIC's second official summit. The leaders of the four countries, President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil, President Dmitry Medvedev of Russia, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh of India and President Hu Jin-tao of China, all attended.

The spread, or proliferation, of nuclear weapons, was one subject discussed at the meeting.

The USA, the UK, France, and Germany accuse Iran of developing nuclear weapons. To stop Iran from doing this they want other countries to impose sanctions on Iran. This means stopping most trade with Iran until it agrees to give up its nuclear plans. These countries were hoping the four members of BRIC would join them in imposing sanctions on Iran. But Brazil said it does not believe sanctions will work. The BRIC countries therefore did not announce that they too would impose sanctions on Iran. Iran denies it is developing nuclear weapons. It insists its nuclear experiments are only for generating electricity.

President Hu Jin-tao, the Chinese leader, had to leave the meeting and return to China a day earlier than planned. This was because a serious earthquake struck the Chinese province of Qinghai on 14th April. ■

SAVING THE QUOLL

An Australian animal has been given a way to save itself from becoming an endangered species. Scientists carried out an experiment to see if the northern quoll could be taught new habits that should improve its chances of survival.

The quoll is a meat-eating, or carnivorous, marsupial native to Australia. Adult quolls grow to about the size of a domestic cat. Quolls are predators – they eat other small animals. One animal that lives in [abundance](#) in the quoll's native habitat is the cane toad. Quolls often prey on cane toads.

Cane toads are not native to Australia. They were introduced to the country in 1935 to try to control a beetle that damaged sugar cane plants. Cane toads were known to

eat this beetle so they were released onto sugar cane farms. But the cane toads ate many other insect species as well as the cane beetle, and the toad population grew and grew.

Now cane toads are considered a pest in Australia. They prey on native species, including honeybees. Cane toads have very few natural predators. The toads have glands that ooze venom over their skin. This makes them poisonous. Cane toad venom can even be harmful to humans.

Many quolls have died after eating the poisonous cane toads. Scientists say it's one reason the quoll is an endangered species. So they decided to try out a way of teaching quolls to avoid eating cane toads.

The scientists had a group of 62 quolls. Each quoll was fed a small dead cane toad. The cane toad was treated with a chemical that made the quoll feel sick. The venom was not enough to kill the quolls that ate the toads.

The quolls were then released into the wild wearing collars carrying tracking devices so the scientists could check what was happening to them. The scientists also kept a check on some quolls that had not been fed the chemically-treated cane toads.



Quoll

The scientists discovered the quolls that had been fed the toads lived for five times as long as quolls that had not. So the quolls had learnt to avoid eating cane toads because they knew the toads made them sick.

Now the scientists are trying to think of a way to use this treatment on a much bigger scale. For example, it may be possible to drop thousands of chemically-treated toads from an aeroplane into the natural habitat of the quolls. The scientists hope wild quolls would eat them, become sick, and learn to avoid eating poisonous cane toads in the future. ■

KUMBH MELA ENDS

Hundreds of thousands of people are going home after the [conclusion](#) of the Kumbh Mela – said to be the biggest religious festival in the world.



Kumbh Mela

The Kumbh Mela is a Hindu festival held in India. 'Kumbh' means pot, or pitcher, and 'mela' is the word for festival. The celebrations are related to a story in Hindu writings about how gods gained immortality, or eternal life. In Hindu tradition, this came from drinking a special type of nectar from a pitcher. The gods had to hide the pitcher from demons who wanted to take it so they too could be immortal. The pitcher was moved around to be hidden in four different places in India, and a little of the nectar spilt out in each place. These four places are now considered [sacred](#).

The festival follows a 12-year cycle. Every three years it is held in one of the four places in which the

nectar is said to have spilt. Each place is near an important river. This year it was held in Haridwar, on the banks of the River Ganges. In Hindu tradition the Ganges is a sacred river. People wash and bathe in the river as they believe it cleans away all their sins.

During the months of the festival, pilgrims bathe in the river every day. Local reports say since January tens of millions of people have made the pilgrimage to Haridwar to bathe. Three special dates are marked out and known as the days of the 'royal bath'. On these days many more people gather at the river. The first royal bath was on 12th February.

The final royal bath date was 14th April. On this day, several million people crowded to the river. Police officers and volunteers controlled the crowds. They blew whistles to signify when groups of people had to get out of the river to let others have their turn to bathe.

Authorities say the day is organised very carefully and different Hindu groups are given a timetable they must follow so everyone has a chance to go to the water to bathe. A disagreement broke out after a vehicle in one procession collided with pilgrims from a different group. Authorities said some people panicked and the result was a small [stampede](#). Five people were reported to have been killed and several more injured.

The final day of the Kumbh Mela is 28th April. ■

CLOSING ROADS IN PARIS

On 14th April Bertrand Delanoë, the mayor of Paris, the capital of France, announced new plans for some of the city's busiest roads.

The River Seine runs through the centre of Paris. In the city the river's

two sides are known as the Left and Right Bank. A large road, or expressway, runs along each side of the river.

The roads were built 43 years ago. They were the idea of Georges Pompidou, the president of France between 1968 and 1974. At the time some people objected to the new roads. Yet the president insisted that they be built. One was named the Pompidou Expressway. Today it is estimated that as many as 60,000 cars a day use the road on the Left Bank.



One of the Paris-Plages

Many people in France take their summer holidays in August. During this month the streets of Paris are far less busy than they normally are. In 2002 the mayor introduced what has become known as 'Paris-Plages', or the Paris beaches. For several weeks in August one of the roads was closed and covered in sand to make an inner-city beach. The mayor's unusual idea was a great success. It became so popular that now both roads are closed for five weeks in the summer and 'beaches' set up on both banks of the River Seine.

Mr Delanoë now wants to replace the roads with parks and foot and bicycle paths. His plan is for a one-kilometre (0.6 mile) part of the expressway on the Left Bank to be permanently closed. He also plans to reduce the width of the road on the Right Bank. Cars using it would be slowed down by a series of traffic lights. They would also

have to share the road with cyclists and **pedestrians**.

Many people support the idea. They say closing the roads will recreate one of the world's most beautiful city river views. Some are disappointed that he only plans to shut one of the roads. They would prefer both expressways to be completely closed.

Not everyone is happy about the mayor's new plans. Except for in August, when many people leave the city, Paris already suffers from bad traffic jams. Organisations of taxi drivers say closing these busy roads will make traffic jams in the city much worse.

The mayor's plan will now have to be approved by France's government. If it is approved Mr Delanoë says his plan to close the roads should be completed by 2012. ■

HOW HIGH IS THE HIGHEST?

Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain. One thing that hasn't always been agreed, though, is exactly how high it is. Now China and Nepal have made a decision to solve the disagreement...for now.



Mount Everest

Mount Everest is in the Himalayan Mountain Range, on the border between Nepal and China. To mountain climbers it represents one of the world's biggest and most dangerous challenges. It is one of among

14 mountains in the world known as '8,000ers' – mountains that are higher than 8,000 metres (26,247 feet). All 14 are in the Himalayan and Karakoram Mountain Ranges, in Asia.

Everest's height was first worked out during the 1850s, when it was known as Peak 15. It was calculated to be 8,840 metres (29,003 feet) high. Other calculations have been made more recently. An American organisation used a satellite to calculate the mountain's height in 1999. It says it is 8,850 metres (29,035 feet) high.

Nepal disagrees with both of these heights. It claims the mountain's peak is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet) high. An Indian surveyor calculated this figure in 1955.

However, China uses another different measurement. It says the mountain is 8,844 metres (29,016 feet) high. The reason for the four metres (13 feet) of difference is that China measures the mountain to the top of its 'rock height'. Nepal, though, includes the height of the snow on Everest's peak.

At a recent meeting in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, officials from China and Nepal each agreed to recognise that the other's calculation is right because it measures a different thing.

Yet geologists – scientists who study rocks – say China and Nepal may both have to change their calculations in the future. This is because one of the world's tectonic plates is gradually pushing the whole Himalayan Mountain Range higher – by around four millimetres (0.16 inches) each year.

Everest was first climbed in 1953. The youngest person to have climbed the mountain was Temba Tsheri Sherpa, from Nepal, in 2001. At the time he was 16 years old. He

had already made one other attempt to reach the summit before being successful. After his climb he lost five of his fingers due to frostbite. This year a 13-year-old American is planning to climb Everest and beat Temba Tsheri's record. ■

NEWLY CLASSIFIED LIZARD

Scientists are constantly discovering new species of living things on the Earth. It's thought most yet-to-be-found species probably live in the sea and are tiny, or even microscopic, organisms. So many people were surprised to hear that a new species of lizard, which can grow to two metres (6.6 feet) long, has only just been identified.



varanus bitatawa

The newly-identified lizard lives in a mountainous rainforest area of the island of Luzon, in the Philippines. It has green and yellow scales. Although the lizard had not been 'discovered' by scientists, people who live in the forests already knew about it. Sometimes they hunt and catch the lizards as a source of food.

When a new species is 'discovered' it does not mean it has never been seen before. Instead it means scientists are yet to study it. When a new species is found, scientists spend a long time examining it and learning everything they can about it. This is called 'classifying' the

species. It's said to have been 'discovered' after it has been studied and given a name.

Recently scientists were able to study the lizard after they caught one of them. They have named the new species *varanus bitatawa*. They also captured a similar previously-discovered lizard called *varanus olivaceus*. Both are types of monitor lizard – the world's biggest lizards. The scientists say it was important to have the two lizards to compare, because it was possible to record the differences between them. These differences proved *varanus bitatawa* is a new species. Both types of lizard are very rare.

One reason the lizard has not been classified before, the scientists say, is because it does not come out into the open very often. Most of the time the lizard lives in the tops of trees up to 20 metres (66 feet) above the ground.

It's thought the lizard mostly eats fruit. This is unusual as other monitor lizards are carnivores. ■

NEW WHALE SANCTUARY

A group of islands in the Pacific Ocean has declared the seas around it are to become a whale sanctuary. Tokelau, a group of three islands, is controlled by New Zealand. The announcement was made during a meeting held by a whale research and conservation group, in New Zealand, on 14th April.

Tokelau's islands have a land area of only 12 square kilometres (five square miles). Yet countries with sea coasts also have control over some of the ocean areas that surround them. These areas are known as the country's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). An EEZ usually extends 200

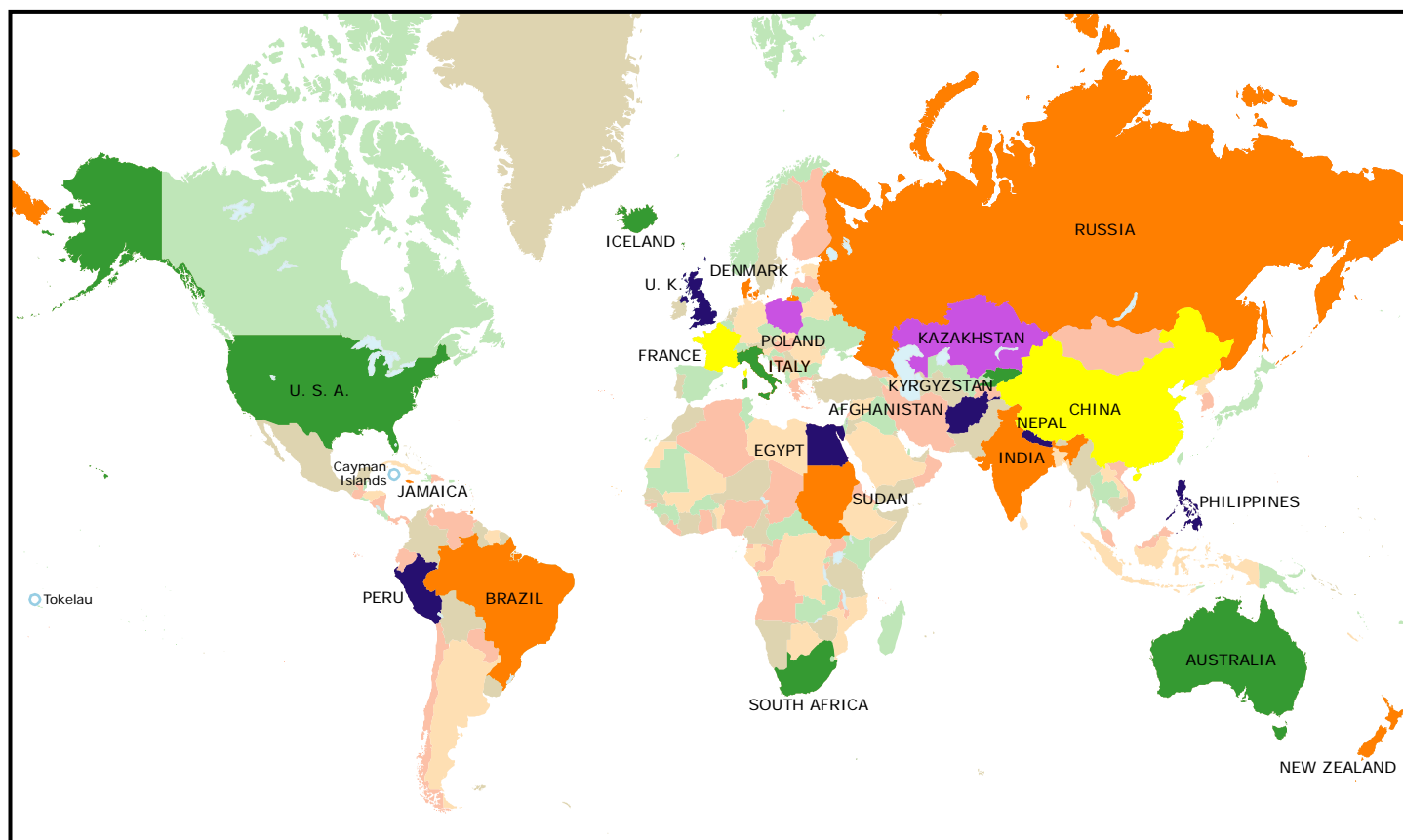
nautical miles (370 kilometres) from the coast. One nautical mile is approximately equal to 1.15 miles.



Tokelau

Tokelau's EEZ covers 290,000 square kilometres (116,000 square miles) of ocean. It is this area of ocean that Tokelau has declared a whale sanctuary. It says it has done this to try to help countries and conservation groups in the Pacific who are trying to stop all whale hunting.

Hunting whales so parts of their bodies such as meat and bones can be sold is banned. This is called



This map shows countries to which news stories refer in this issue. Visit www.newsademic.com for more detailed world maps.

commercial whaling. Yet a few countries such as Japan, Norway and Iceland still hunt whales. Japan insists it only catches and kills whales for scientific research and that it does not do any commercial whaling. By international agreement Japan has permission to catch around 2,000 whales each year. Most of the whales it catches are minke whales, which are not endangered.

Other countries such as New Zealand and Australia say they want all whale hunting to be banned. Many people suspect some of the meat from the whales Japan catches is sold in Japanese restaurants. This, they say, means Japan is carrying out commercial whale hunting.

Conservationists say Tokelau's announcement was a good way to show it supports a complete whale-hunting ban. One official at the meeting in New Zealand said it's important even small island territories such as Tokelau make these announcements. This, he explained, helps to show most countries in the world are against any form of whale hunting.

Several other countries in the Pacific Ocean have previously declared their EEZs whale sanctuaries. These include Australia, Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu. New Zealand has a law that does not allow anyone to catch whales within its EEZ, but it is not officially a sanctuary. ■

TYRANT KING OF LEECHES

Scientists have discovered a new species of leech that seems to prefer an unusual place to feed: inside people's nostrils. The leech was discovered inside the nose of a girl who had been swimming in a river in Peru.

Leeches are a type of worm with a body made up of segments. These

worms are also called annelids. Leeches are mostly found in freshwater ecosystems such as rivers and lakes. The leech has powerful suckers at each end that it uses to attach itself to other creatures. It then uses one of the suckers to suck blood from the creature to which it is attached.



Tyranobdella rex

The newly-discovered leech has been named *tyranobdella rex* – the 'tyrant king of leeches' – after the carnivorous dinosaur Tyrannosaurus Rex. This is because, unlike other leeches, it has a row of eight sharp teeth in its sucking mouth. The leech discovered inside the girl's nose was about 6.5 cm (2.6 inches) long.

The scientists say *tyranobdella rex* is similar to other leeches that prefer to attach themselves to what are known as mucous membranes in mammals. 'Membrane' is a word for skin. The mucous membranes are those that produce mucus, or liquid – such as the insides of our noses, eye sockets and mouths. The scientists say the leech is a close relative of one from Mexico. This type of leech is often found inside the noses of mammals called tapirs.

An animal may bleed after it has been wounded or bitten. When this happens its body has a natural way of stopping blood from flowing out of the wound so it can start to heal. The blood forms clots, or hardened plugs, over a wound to seal it. But

when a leech attaches itself to an animal, it produces a special substance that stops blood from clotting. This means the leech can continue to suck the blood it needs to feed.

Blood clots are not always useful to the body. Some people are at risk of forming blood clots inside their bodies, which can be dangerous. Doctors sometimes purposely use the substance produced by leeches to stop clots from forming in patients who are at risk of this. Doctors say the new leech discovery could help them learn more about the chemicals contained in the anti-clotting substance leeches produce. ■

FUNERAL FOR POLISH PRESIDENT

On 18th April Lech Kaczynski, the president of Poland, and his wife Maria were buried at a special ceremony in a cathedral in the city of Kraków. They and 94 other passengers and crew died when the Polish air force plane in which they were travelling crashed on 10th April.



Lech and Jarosław Kaczynski

Mr Kaczynski was elected president of Poland in 2005. For a period between 2006 and 2007 Jarosław Kaczynski, the president's twin brother, was the country's prime minister. In Poland it is the prime minister who runs the country. The president acts as a figurehead and has fewer powers. Poland's current prime minister is Donald Tusk.

The president, his wife and the other passengers on the plane were travelling from Warsaw, the capital of Poland, to Smolensk, a city in western Russia. They were due to take part in a special ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of what has become known as the Katyn [massacre](#).

The Second World War (1939 – 1945) started when Nazi Germany invaded Poland. Before it began Russia made an agreement with Germany. When Germany invaded Poland from the west Russian troops invaded it from the east. The Russians took many officers of the Polish army and professional people such as doctors and professors prisoner. Most of them were murdered on the orders of Joseph Stalin, the Russian leader at the time. Many were shot and buried in the forests at Katyn, in Russia. After the end of the war Russia denied it was responsible. It claimed that the Germans carried out the murders.

In 1990 Russia eventually admitted that Russian secret police were responsible for the massacre.

The day before the plane crash Prime Minister Tusk and Vladimir Putin, the prime minister of Russia, had attended a different ceremony at Katyn.

Many other important Polish officials also died in the plane crash. They included the leaders of the army and of the country's National Bank, and several members of the Sejm, the Polish parliament. Russian officials say they warned the plane not to land because of thick fog. Some people think the plane was too old and unsafe to fly. The Russian and Polish authorities are now investigating to try to find out what caused the plane to crash.

After hearing news of the plane crash thousands of people gathered outside the Presidential Palace in

NewsCAST

STATUES SHOCK NEW YORKERS — Police in New York City, in the USA, have received worried phone calls from people who have seen figures standing on roofs and high narrow ledges. Police officers have had to explain to the callers that the figures are statues and part of an art exhibition in the city. An artist from the UK made 31 life-sized statues of himself, which have been set up on pavements and the roofs of tall buildings. The police said announcements had been made before the statues were set up so local people would be aware the figures were not real.

Warsaw. Many left flowers or lit candles. Prime Minister Tusk announced a week-long period of [mourning](#). Theatres, cinemas, restaurants and shops were closed and sports matches and concerts cancelled.

On 18th April thousands of people gathered in Kraków for the funeral. Several world leaders were due to attend, including Barack Obama, the president of the USA. But he and others had to cancel their plans. This was because ash from a volcanic eruption in Iceland stopped planes from flying over and landing in northern Europe.

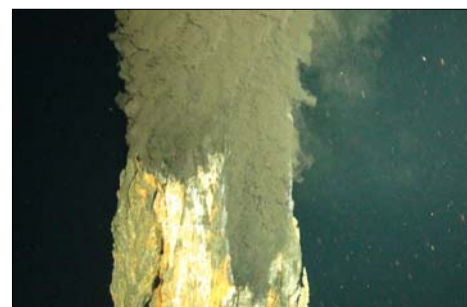
A presidential election was due later this year. Many expected President Kaczynski to lose. The election will now be brought forward. Some people think Jaroslaw Kaczynski will now decide to stand in the election on behalf of his twin brother.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski was also supposed to have been travelling on the plane that crashed. Instead he had decided to stay behind to look after his mother, who was ill. ■

DEEP-SEA VENTS DISCOVERED

Marine scientists have taken pictures of the deepest undersea [vents](#) ever seen. The team, from the UK's National Oceanography Centre (NOC), was exploring a deep-sea trench, or trough, in the Caribbean Sea between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica.

The scientists used two remote-controlled mini submarines. The first carried equipment to make a map of the seabed. The second had a camera to take pictures and video of what was in the deep-sea trench. During the expedition the cameras filmed some hydrothermal vents. These were five kilometres (three miles) below the surface of the ocean – the deepest undersea vents ever discovered.



One of the recently filmed deep-sea vents

The seabed has cracks through which cold sea water sinks. A layer of hot liquid rock called magma, deep below the Earth's surface, then heats up this water. As it gets hotter the water expands and is forced back up towards the seabed. While being heated the water absorbs many chemicals and minerals from the surrounding rocks. The super-heated water – at temperatures of over 350°C (660°F) – shoots upwards through cracks, or vents, and bursts out in a black chemical-rich cloud.

Some of the dissolved minerals in the water harden and attach themselves to the rock, which over a long

period of time form chimney-like structures. These vents have been nicknamed 'black smokers' because the dark clouds of hot water that burst out of them look like plumes of smoke.

Deep-sea or hydrothermal vents were first discovered during an undersea exploration in the 1970s. Mini submarines with cameras took pictures of them around 2.4 kilometres (1.5 miles) below the surface near the Galapagos Islands, in the Pacific Ocean.

What surprised scientists was the amount and variety of life around the black smokers. Whole ecosystems have evolved in conditions that make survival difficult. For example, the water around the vents contains many chemicals and there is a lack of light. Some bacteria have even evolved to be able to feed off the chemicals coming from the vents. These chemicals, the scientists say, would be poisonous for most living things. Small sea creatures feed on these bacteria. Larger deep-sea organisms then eat these creatures.

Recently a company has announced it plans to mine the mineral-rich rock around other deep-sea vents. Many environmental scientists are worried this type of mining will destroy the ecosystems that have evolved around the black smokers. The company admits mining would be damaging, but says it believes the vent ecosystems would recover. ■

ICE-MEASURING SATELLITE

On 8th April a satellite was launched that has been designed to study the ice at the North and South Poles. The satellite will monitor the

thickness of ice that floats in the polar oceans. It will also collect information on the ice sheets of Antarctica and Greenland.

The satellite, named Cryosat-2, was launched from a base in Kazakhstan by the European Space Agency (ESA). It is the latest of several satellite projects that will study and map the Earth's ice sheets.

Most scientists agree climate change is having an effect on the ice in the Earth's polar regions. The new satellite will take measurements from the top of the ice sheets and from the surface of the water. Scientists will use the difference between these two measurements to work out how much polar ice there is and how this amount changes with the seasons.



Artist's impression of Cryosat-2

In 2007, a report was published by a group called the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This organisation is part of the United Nations (UN). It studies and reports on climate change caused by human activity. The IPCC's report said between 1993 and 2003 the sea levels on the Earth rose by an average of 3.1 millimetres (0.12 inches) each year. The IPCC also calculated that the amount of ice in the Arctic has decreased by 3.3% every ten years since 1978.

Scientists say sea levels tend to rise and fall naturally over hundreds

of thousands of years as the global temperature changes. But, they say, the current rise in the Earth's temperature is happening much more quickly than it has in the past. Most scientists think this is because of human activity. They are sure extra carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere from burning fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas is acting like a 'greenhouse', trapping heat and causing temperatures to rise.

The first Cryosat satellite was sent into space in 2005. Yet soon after its launch the satellite stopped working. It eventually crashed into the ocean. Scientists have spent four years building a new satellite and working to fix the problems. Soon after Cryosat-2 launched they said it had begun working exactly as expected.

Cryosat-2 is now in orbit 717 kilometres (456 miles) above the Earth's surface. Its measuring systems were activated on 11th April. Three days later the Cryosat team of scientists received the first data, or information, from the satellite. It sent measurements from the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica.

The satellite is expected to continue to send measurements for at least three years. ■

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Editor: Amber Thody

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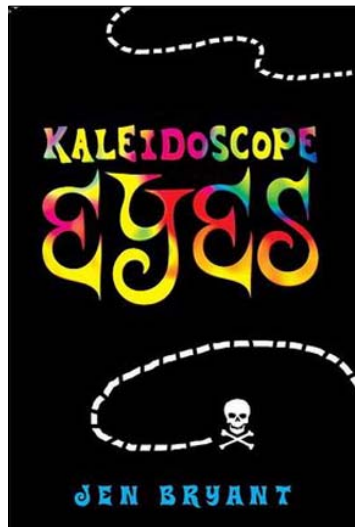
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B O O K R E V I E W

HAVE YOU READ ...?



Have you ever looked into the lens of a kaleidoscope, and twisted the cylinder to view the prismatic images inside? Have you seen the reds, greens, yellows, and blues join and break into ever-shifting patterns?

Lyza's kaleidoscope is one of her most prized possessions. Her mother gave it to her when she was ten years old. Then, Lyza's mother left and never came back. It simply started with an argu-

ment at the beach and the next day she was just... gone. Memories of her mum and thoughts on her prized kaleidoscope are very important to Lyza throughout this wonderful story.

This book is written in a way that's unlike any other book I've ever read. It has an almost poetic style, somewhat like a journal or a diary, and has very short chapters. Some sections are even written in a verse style, almost like a song, and I wondered if I was missing an audio component to the story!

Reading and considering the chapters' titles is important before diving into the rest of the text, because each hints strongly at the next direction and topic to be revealed in her story. For example, in the chapter 'Just Checking...' Lyza discovers that her recently-deceased grandfather left her a batch of maps to puzzle over. With the help of her friends, Lyza hopes to solve the 17th-century mystery her grandfather has left her.

Lyza never paid much attention to her Earth Science teacher before, but the mystery makes her suddenly keenly interested in learning how rivers can meander across the land over the course of centuries! The search for buried treasure is not really the core story here, but rather how Lyza deliberates and makes her decisions to achieve her goals. I really like how she carefully weighs her options before deciding whom she can trust and on whom she must rely with her newfound secrets.

The language is quite simple and the story easy to follow. But there's a lot contained in the [context](#) in which

the story takes place. For me, it's this background to the story that makes this a joy for readers of all ages.

Lyza is experiencing her childhood and early teens during the 1970s in America. There are dozens of references to this era of American history, such as the Vietnam War, the wild hippie days, antiwar demonstrations, the flower power movement, mounting racial and gender tensions and the political blunders that happened during this era. I kept being amazed by all these references to modern American history and I especially enjoyed seeing them through the eyes of this young teenager.

Lyza is very independently minded. She asks insightful questions into the social injustices of the time. For instance, her best friend Malcolm is an African American boy, and it's expected that at school she and Malcolm don't talk to one another. Lyza is also understandably the leader of her group of friends as a result of her careful and thoughtful nature.

People in Lyza's life show how the Vietnam War affected young people in America. Malcolm's older brother Dixon is drafted: made by law to go to fight in the war. One of the best questions Lyza asks herself and then later poses to her sister's boyfriend, Harry, a hippie and antiwar protestor, is why Harry doesn't have to go to war while Dixon does. Harry tells her colour-blindness is a good way to escape the draft, and she puts his answer in a wonderful perspective I'll let you discover on your own.

This book is suited for young readers aged ten and up who enjoy a good treasure hunt, and also for older readers who would like a good insight into American life of the 1970s.

Kaleidoscope Eyes by Jen Bryant. Random House.

Reviewed by **Chris Tarn**

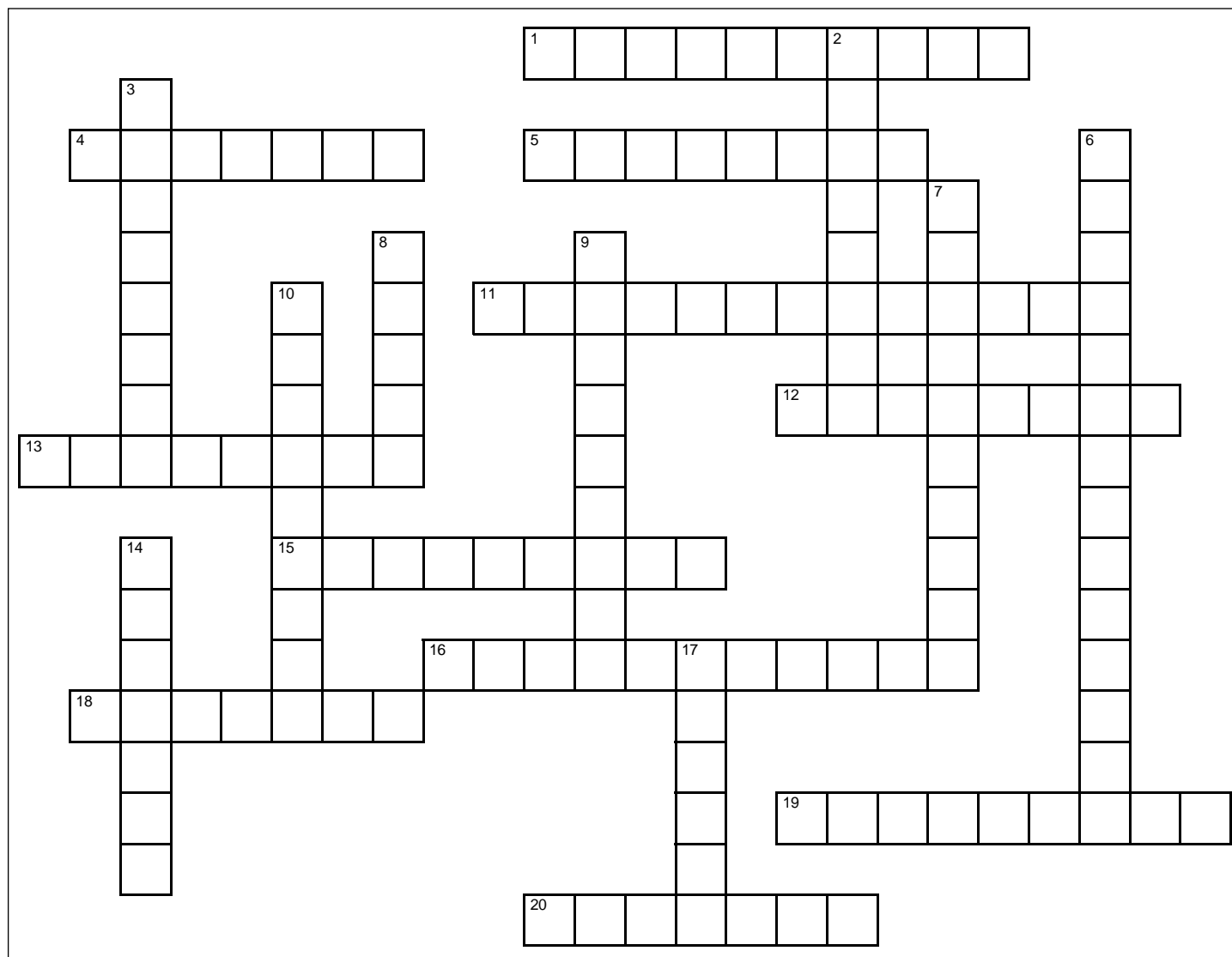
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GLOSSARY

PRIZE COMPETITION

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 1 Noun** The final part or ending of something
4 Noun A piece of paper or certificate that allows you to get something free or pay less than the normal price for it
5 Adjective Relating to sailing, ships or sailors
11 Adjective Likely to cause arguments
12 Noun Small particles of a solid material, especially rock
13 Noun (Plural) Parts into which something is divided
15 Verb Left with no intention of returning to something
16 Noun (Plural) People travelling on foot
18 Noun The background or circumstances in which a phrase is used that help to define its meaning
19 Verb To remove or take apart
20 Noun The science of the structure of living things' bodies

Down

- 2 Noun** A sudden, rushed movement of a large number of people or animals, usually in panic
3 Noun Sadness felt because someone has died
6 Noun A person who is concerned for his or her fellow human beings, especially as shown by kind and generous acts that benefit many people
7 Noun (Plural) Chemical substances used to kill pests such as insects, small animals or wild plants
8 Noun (Plural) Gaps in the Earth's crust through which molten lava, hot water or gases erupt
9 Verb To have an effect on someone or something
10 Noun A large amount
14 Noun A word formed from the initial letters of other words
17 Noun A person who rules in a cruel or unjust manner

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